

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

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R 210240Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2656

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 3728

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (RAJBHANDARI, A.B.)

SUBJ: VISIT OF NEPAL'S WATER AND POWER SECRETARY

1. THE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND POWER, MR. A.B. RAJBHANDARI HAS REQUESTED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. R. RAJBHANDARI, ACCOMPANNED BY THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICITY, MR. S.K. MALLA, WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR A PERIOD OF 10 DAYS BEGINNING IN THE SECOND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE WORLD BANK ON THE KULIKHANI PROJECT. DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON HE WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT OPIC, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND AID. MR. RAJBHANDARI MET OPIC DIRECTOR HAUSER DURING THE LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO KATHMANDU, AT WHICH TIME RAJBHANDARI INDICATED GON'S DESIRE FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE WATER AND POWER DEVELOPMENT AREAS. AT INTERIOR DEPARTMENT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET THOSE CONCERNED WITH COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN PROBLEMS AND AT AID WITH SENIOR TECHNICAL STAFF IN WATER AND POWER FIELD.

2. FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO THE US, MR. RAJBHANDARI HOPES TO BE ABLE TO VISIT MAJOR WATER AND POWER PROJECTS IN SOUTHEAST
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ASIA WHERE US PRIVATE INVESTMENT HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT

ROLE. HE HAS ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING SUITABLE PROJECTS FOR HIM TO VISIT. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE IF PROJECTS COULD BE IDENTIFIED WHERE OPIC HAS BEEN INVOLVED. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT SIMILAR PROJECTS IN MEXICO AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. IN VISITING THESE PROJECTS MR. RAJBHANDARI IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN REQUIRED FOR ATTRACTING PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THESE AREAS OF INTEREST TO HIM.

3. SINCE VISITS TO OTHER COUNTRIES WILL REQUIRE CABINET APPROVAL MR. RAJBHANDARI HAS ASKED THAT WE PROVIDE HIM WITH SUGGESTIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND IN ANY EVENT NO LATER THAN THE END OF AUGUST. WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE SINCE MR. RAJBHANDARI'S VISIT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO STIMULATE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN NEPAL. CARGO

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